

SEPTORIA LEAF SPOT OF RED MAPLE

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Red maple, *Acer rubrum* L., is native to Florida, is hardy and salt tolerant, and can attain a height of up to 90 feet (28 meters). It is a wide-ranging species and has the widest distribution (Fig. 1) of any maple in North America (3), favoring low ground and swampy woodlands (8). The growth and habit of red maple, as well as the color of its foliage are highly variable (2). Red maple is most suitable for street and highway beautification and is well adapted for home landscaping, rest areas and parks, where shade and color are desired (2). The wood is used for furniture and cabinets, flooring, interior finish, veneers, gunstocks, and woodenware, including the burning in kilns of considerable quantities of wood in producing wood acetate and charcoal (3). The seeds are often eaten by squirrels and chipmunks, and the foliage browsed by deer (9).

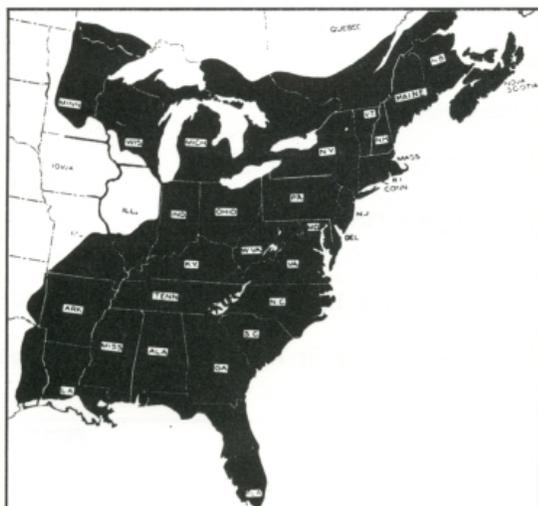


Figure 1. The natural range of red maple, *Acer rubrum*. DPI File No. 702561.

SYMPTOMS: Leaf spots usually occur as relatively small (up to 4mm in diameter), irregular, dark brown lesions with a lighter brown center upon enlargement, and with a yellow halo (Fig. 2).

CONTROL: This disease occurs infrequently and at low incidences, with its overall effect on the vigor of the tree being minimal. Hence, no control measures are deemed necessary.

SURVEY AND DETECTION: The appearance of small, irregular, dark brown leaf spots with a lighter brown center and yellow halo is evidence of the disease.

Of the many pathogens (1,4,5,6,10) that affect red maple throughout its range, *Septoria aceris* (Lib.) Berk. & Broome, formerly referred to as *Phloeospora aceris* (Lib.) Sacc. (4,7), is a leaf-spotting fungus that is not seriously destructive to the foliage and tends to occur at relatively low incidences.

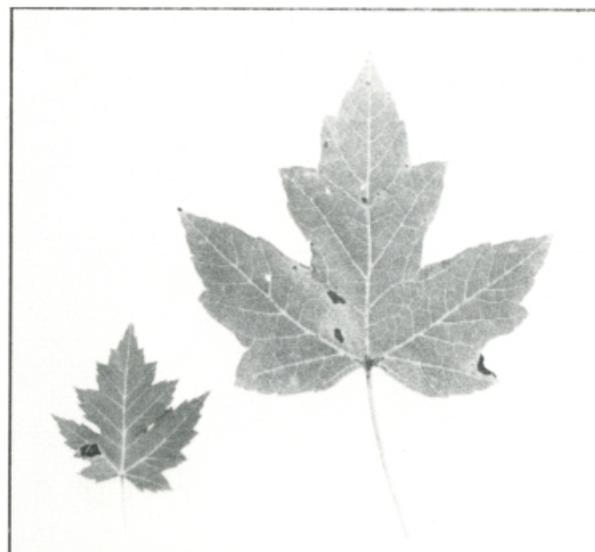


Figure 2. Septoria leaf spot of red maple. DPI File No. 702561-12.

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